

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OC-06 CCO-00 CU-04 SAB-02 IO-13 /084 W

-----015776 081727Z /43

O 081550Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3589

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, SOPN, PQ

SUBJECT: ANTI-TREATY DEMONSTRATION IN CANAL ZONE

REF: PANAMA 6452

1. CANDLELIGHT PROTEST AGAINST NEW TREATY WAS HELD AT 1830 SEPTEMBER 7. SOME OBSERVERS ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE AS LOW AS 200-300; THIS APPEARED LOW TO EMBOFFS WHO ARRIVED AABOUT 1910. RELIABLE US JOURNALIST ESTIMATED CROWD AT 800-900 MAXIMUM. MANY PEOPLE REMAINED HOME TO WATCH TREATY SIGNING ON TV, THEN CAME TO PROTEST SITE.

2. PROTEST BEGAN WITH A MARCH TO GOETHALS MEMORIAL, IMMEDIATELY BELOW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON BALBOA HEIGHTS. SPEECHES WERE OVER QUICKLY AND WERE HEARD BY FEW DUE TO FAILURE OF PA SYSTEMS. SPEAKERS URGED ALL PRESENT TO ATTEND ANOTHER RALLY AT SAME PLACE SEPTEMBER 15 UPON WILLIAM DRUMMOND'S RETURN. PROTESTERS THEN AFFIXED THEIR CANDLES ON GOETHALS MONUMENT, AND LATER BURNED SIGNS ON A BONFIRE IN FRONT OF ADMIN BUILDING.

3. SAMPLING OF SIGNS CARRIED BY PROTESTERS: "U.S.

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STATE DEPARTMENT BRAINWASHED CARTER"; "FREEDOM IS HABIT FORMING, AND CARTER WANTS US TO GO COLD TURKEY"; "BASES YES"; "PANAMANIAN STUDENTS AND CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS UNITED AGAINST THE TREATY"; "LAST AMERICAN OUT TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND OPEN THE GATES".

4. US NETWORK TV CREWS WERE ON SCENE, INTERVIEWED

SEVERAL PROTESTERS, AND SHOT CONSIDERABLE FOOTAGE OF CROWD AND OF A COMMENTATOR WITH CANDLES ON GOETHALS MEMORIAL IN BACKGROUND.

5. PARTICIPANTS WERE OVERWHELMINGLY WHITE NORTH AMERICANS. CROWD APPEARED TO HAVE DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF HIGH-SCHOOL AGE PARTICIPANTS. CROWD DISPERSED AROUND 2000.

6. COMMENT: MOOD OF CROWD STRUCK EMBOFFS AS UNUSUALLY OMINOUS FOR GATHERINGS OF THIS SORT. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO HAS ATTENDED MANY OF THESE RALLIES HAD THE FEELING THAT, GIVEN AN EXCUSE, THE UGLY MOOD COULD HAVE LED TO REAL UNPLEASANTNESS. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE TALK OF STRIKE--OR MORE--AFTER DRUMMOND RETURNS. EMBOFF MET AL GRAHAM, HEAD OF CENTRAL LABOR UNION METAL TRADES COUNCIL (AFL-CIO), AS RALLY WAS DISPERSING. HE APPEARED GLUMLY CONVINCED THAT WORKFORCE TROUBLE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. MODERATES STILL EXIST, BUT STILL APPEAR TO FEEL DISCREDITED AND UNABLE TO SAY ANYTHING. FEARS OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN FRIDAY UPON TORRIJOS' RETURN CONTINUE HIGH. PUBLICATION OF FULL TEXTS OF ALL TREATIES, AGREEMENTS, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS IN CANAL ZONE HOUSE ORGANS, EXPECTED THURSDAY OR FRIDAY, MAY OR MAY NOT HELP. BUT MOOD IN MUCH OF THE COMMUNITY REMAINS VERY, VERY DICEY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TREATY SIGNATURE, AGREEMENTS, CANALS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PANAMA 6452  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ANTI-TREATY DEMONSTRATION IN CANAL ZONE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, ELAB, SOPN, EWWT, PQ, PN, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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